

Press Release

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**An artist challenges the colonial viewpoint
„NOISY IMAGES“ at the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum**

For the first time, the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum (RJM) will present its photographic collection within the framework of a city-wide project. At the invitation of the Internationale Photoszene Cologne, the Belgian artist Antje Van Wichelen, the museum's 'artist in residence', will create an exhibition in connection with the Photoszene-Festival 2019 using historical photographs from the museum's collection. This show will be open to the public from 4 May to 16 June 2019 at the RJM, Cäcilienstraße 29-33, in the city centre.

This is the first time that the RJM is making its photographic collection accessible to an artist. In her first solo exhibition "NOISY IMAGES", the artist critically explores the mechanisms of colonial photography using the historical photo-archives of the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museums for her research. The result of her exploration of this material is an installation that aims at overcoming a focus on mere classification: Van Wichelen transforms the photographic document into a video and creates a direct connection with the viewer by encouraging them to do their own research. She thus facilitates a completely new view of the images.

The historical photographic archives of the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum comprise roughly 100,000 photographic objects from almost all regions of the planet. Many of the images have a colonial context. Antje Van Wichelen immersed herself in the archives and viewed thousands of images looking for the underlying clichés and the photographers' motivation. In her installations she scrutinises this 'colonial view' and explores ways of addressing, challenging and breaking it.

Antje Van Wichelen lives and works in Brussels. The film maker is a member of the Brussels film laboratory "LABO-BXL" and of the artists' collective "Greyzone Zebra" which is concerned with the reappraisal of private films dealing with Belgium's colonial history. This show in Cologne is the artist's first solo exhibition.

The Photoszene-Residency "Artist Meets Archive" is at the centre of the Photoszene-Festival 2019 programme and aims at revealing the outstanding diversity and quality of the photographic material in the city's collections and archives in close dialogue with in-

ternational artists. Besides the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum, the collections and archives of the Kölnisches Stadtmuseum, the Museum of Applied Art in Cologne (MAKK), the Museum Ludwig, the Rheinisches Bildarchiv Cologne und the Photographische Sammlung / SK Stiftung Kultur will also be involved in these joint projects. "Artist Meets Archive" is a project of the Internationale Photoszene Cologne.

Further Information

Curator: Lucia Halder

Graphics and design: Carmen Strzelecki, Jonathan Haehn

Cooperation partners and sponsors:

The special exhibition is a joint project with the Internationale Photoszene Cologne and is supported by the Museumsgesellschaft RJM e.V. and the Region of Flanders.

Opening times:

The RJM is open Tuesdays to Sundays from 10 am to 6 pm, Thursdays from 10 am to 8 pm, first Thursday of the month from 10 am to 10 pm (except public holidays).

Special opening times during the Photoszene-Festival:

Friday, 10 May, 10 am to 9 pm, Saturday, 11, and Sunday, 12 May, 10 am to 7 pm

Admission:

Individual ticket, special exhibition: 3 Euros

Festivalpass: 14 Euros / concessions 10 Euros

Artist talk:

Thematic tour of the special exhibition and permanent collection with Antje Van Wichelen

Thursday, 16 May, 6 pm

Public guided tours of the exhibition:

Wednesdays, 8 May, 22 May, 5 June, 3 pm

Sundays, 19 May and 16 June, 2 pm

Excursions to three exhibition venues of the "Artist Meets Archive"-programme:

Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum, Kaune Contemporary, Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur

The Museumsdienst (museum service) invites visitors to take part in a tour of three exhibitions of the joint project "Artist Meets Archive". This tour starts at the Rautenstrauch-Joest-Museum with the exhibition "NOISY IMAGES" by Antje van Wichelen. The group is then taken to the "Kaune Contemporary"-Gallery to explore the work "COELN. Cathedral of Light" by Ola Kolehmainen (in collaboration with the Rheinisches Bildarchiv Köln) in the chapel. The tour finishes with a visit of the "Hummer Quadrille" exhibition by Roselyne Titaud at the Photographische Sammlung/SK Stiftung Kultur.

Excursion dates:

Saturday, 11 May, 11 am; Sunday, 12 May, 3 pm, and Sunday, 19 May, 3.30 pm

Getting there:

Tram stop Neumarkt (two minutes' walk)

KVB-lines 1, 3, 4, 7, 9, 16, 18

Bus lines 136, 146

Parking:

Cäcilienstraße parking garage directly below the museum,
Access from Cäcilienstraße

Note for editorial staff:

On Thursday, 2 May 2019, at 11 am there will be a press conference on Artist Meets Archive at the Museum Ludwig.

The official opening of the exhibition "NOISY IMAGES" will be at the RJM on Sunday, 5 May 2019, at 11 am.

Press photos und texts as well as information on fringe events can be downloaded from www.museenkoeln.info. For more information please go to <https://festival2018.photoszene.de/de/presse.html>.

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The contact partner for "Artist Meets Archive" is Jana Strippel, Internationale Photoszene Köln gUG, tel.: 0179-6834958, www.photoszene.de

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